

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attorney General McGraw Sues Seven Unlicensed Collection Agencies to Enforce Investigative Subpoenas And Enjoin Unlawful Practices

CHARLESTON - Attorney General Darrell McGraw announced today that his office filed suit against seven unlicensed collection agencies and their owners to enforce investigative subpoenas and to enjoin them from engaging in unlawful practices in West Virginia.

McGraw's office opened investigations of these companies after receiving complaints alleging that they engaged in a wide range of abusive and unlawful debt collection practices, including repeated harassing phone calls, impersonating law enforcement and judicial officers, making false threats that nonpayment will result in arrest or criminal prosecution, and collecting nonexistent debts or debts that have already been paid.

After receiving the complaints, McGraw's office issued investigative subpoenas requiring the companies to produce records of all their collection activities in West Virginia. The companies refused to comply with the subpoenas, which led to the filing of this enforcement action.

The companies and individuals sued by McGraw's office include the following:

- County Filing Services, Inc., Portfolio Investment Financial, and Todd Loop
- Investment Management and Recoveries, Inc. and Randall Ray Goins
- Rosenthal, Stein and Associates, LLC and Sharisse Williams
- Vision Credit Solutions, LLC and James P. Belstadt
- National Capital Management, Inc., Ryan Daniel Todora, and Natalie Lynn Rowe
- Dorsey Thornton & Associates, LLC, Wyteria Dorsey and Michael Thornton

Attorney General McGraw stated, "In recent years, my office has been flooded with complaints against companies making unlawful threats of arrest or legal action to coerce consumers to pay nonexistent debts or debts that have already been paid. These companies refuse to become licensed in West Virginia and often go through great lengths to keep their whereabouts hidden in order to evade regulation. I have directed my staff to aggressively pursue all such violators and to do whatever it takes to force compliance with laws governing the conduct of collection agencies."

To report a scam or file a complaint, West Virginians can reach the Attorney General's Office online or by calling the Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-800-368-8808. For regular consumer news updates, follow "AGWestV" on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

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